

Craig STEPHENS

My name is Craig Stephens and I am a lifelong resident of Carlsbad and New Mexico. I was in business in Carlsbad for 47 years. We raised our two children in Carlsbad, one of which is a 4th grade teacher in Carlsbad and the other a retired USAF Lt. Colonial who flies for Delta. We have watched WIPP become one of the safest projects in the United States. It is accomplishing what it was intended to do in a safe and responsible manner. What is being proposed would fundamentally change the essential mission of WIPP, forcing the facility to prioritize LANL waste over all the other sites. WIPP cannot speed up the waste packaging that LANL does thereby making it eligible to be packaged and shipped. To not accept waste from other sites while LANL is packaging their waste is preposterous, also the only leak our site has had was because of LANL waste being packaged improperly. In my opinion, the modification is totally unnecessary. WIPP is a shining success. It is a success because of the Carlsbad Community and its essential mission. Don't create operational constraints by prioritizing LANL waste over other sites when their waste isn't being packaged and shipped in a timely manner. This isn't WIPP's fault and isn't within WIPP's control.